

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ABF-01 SS-15 SSO-00 RSC-01 /040 W

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1744

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, AFSP, AMGT

SUBJECT: FISCAL PLANNING FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

1. WITH REGARD TO OUR FISCAL PLANNING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT THIS WEEKEND, WE DID NOT FORESEE ONE PROBLEM WHICH WE BELIEVE REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT'S URGENT ATTENTION.

2. BY THE TIME THE VISIT IS TERMINATED, WE WILL HAVE RENTED A NUMBER OF CARS, TRUCKS AND SMALL BUSES WHOSE DRIVERS AND OWNERS IN OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE NOVEMBER ADVANCE TEAM VISIT, INSIST UPON IMMEDIATE PAYMENT FOR THEIR SERVICES. WE ESTIMATE SEVERAL DRIVER SERVICE BILLS WILL RUN UP TO DOLLARS 600, A SUM WELL ABOVE THE DOLS 150 LIMITATION ON INDIVIDUAL PETTY CASH EXPENDITURES WHICH WE NOW OPERATES UNDER.

3. ANY DELAY IN PAYING THESE BILLS PROMPTLY, AS WELL AS OTHER TRANSPORTATION CHARGES, WILL, I BELIEVE, REFLECT QUITE BADLY UPON US LOCALLY. LOCAL MERCHANTS, AND OTHER PERSONS WHOSE SERVICES WAS REQUIRED, WILL BE QUITE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE USG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SETTLE ALL OUTSTANDING BILLS PROMPTLY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THE VISIT WAS PRESIDENTIAL NATURE. WE HOPE TO AVOID BEING PUT IN THE EMBARRASSING POSITION OF DELAYING PAYMENT BECAUSE OF PROCESSING TIME IN THE DEPARTMENT AND NECESSARY DELAYS CAUSED BY POUCH TRAVEL TIME.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE IT MOST DESIRABLE TO RAISE TEMPORARILY THE LIMITATION ON OUR INDIVIDUAL PETTY CASH EXPENDITURES TO DOLS 650. IN ADDITION, OUR CASH OPERATING BALANCE SHOULD

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BE RAISED, AGAIN TEMPORARILY, TO 65,000 FRANCS TO COVER THE

EXPECTED EXPENDITURES.

5. AGAIN IT SHOULD BE STATED THAT THESE CHANGES NEED ONLY BE TEMPORARY AND SHOULD BE TERMINATED AS SOON AS WE SETTLE THE OUTSTANDING CHARGES INCURRED AS RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. I DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THE PROBLEM, BUT IT INVOLVES THE REPUTATION OF THE USG IN A WAY WHICH , I BELEIVE, REQUIRES OUR ATTENTION.

6. SEPARATELY WE HAVE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FORMS 1754 AND THE EMERGENCY FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE BANK OF AMERICA SO THAT EVENTUALLY WE WILL GAIN GREATER FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO OUR CASH BALANCES. THIS WILL NOT HOWEVER MEET OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEM TO SETTLE PROMPTLY CHARGES INCURRED BY THE UPCOMING VISIT.

7. REQUEST CABLE REPLY.
SHACKLETON

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